THE Grand Pyrate:

Or, the LIFE and DEATH OF

Capt. *GEORGE CUSACK* The great Sea-Robber.

WITH

An Accompt of all his notorious Robberies both at *Sea* and *Land*.

TOGETHER

With his *TRYAL, CONDEMNATION*, and *EXECUTION*.

Taken by an Impartial Hand.

Licensed *Novemb.* 19. 1675. *Roger L'Estrange.*

LONDON,
Printed for *Jonathan Edwin* at the Sign of the *Three Roses* in *Ludgate-street*. M DC LXXVI.

THE

GRAND PIRATE,

Or the LIFE and DEATH of

Captain GEORGE CUSACK.

THE World hath been long entertained with Accounts of *Highway-men* and *Land-Robbers*, but *Piracies* and *Sea-Robbers* being for the moſt part either under the guard & protection of ſome *States*, that avowedly drive this infamous Traffick, as they of *Algiers* and *Salley* do, or on the pretence of a *Commiſſion* from ſome Prince engaged in a War with his Neighbours; therefore it is hoped that the following Account ſhall be received and read generally, ſince it contains ſome of the paſſages of the moſt ſignal Sea-Robber, that perhaps this Age hath known, who encourag'd with ſucceſs, did with a moſt daring boldneſs, drive that curſed Trade for 15 years, and not daunted

with one misfortune, continued and improved in his villainous courſe of life, till at length this Captain *George Cuſack* (for that was his name) was taken, and being found guilty of unparallell'd Crimes, was put to death at the Execution Dock on Monday the Eighteenth of *January*, 1674. according to the Sentence paſt upon him.

GEorge Cuſack Son to one Mr. *Cuſack* of *Granſtowen* in the County of *Eaſt-Meath* in *Ireland*, was bred a Scholar and a Roman Catholick, and was diſpoſed by his Parents for a Fryer, but the wildneſs of his youth not agreeing with a Religious Life, made him firſt rob his neareſt Kinſman Mr. *Benedict Arthur* of Sixty pounds and his Watch within two Miles of *Dublin* in the year 53; after which he went to ſerve as a private Souldier in *Flanders*, but the ſeverity of that Diſcipline not agreeing with his looſer temper, he did betake himſelf to Sea-Service in ſeveral *Privateers*, where he continued for ſome time in a private capacity; but after frequent removals, his firſt *Riſe* was to the degree of a Gunners Mate aboard of Captain *North*, in a Voyage to *Guinney*; where being very mutinous, and uſual puniſhments not being able to keep him in order, his Captain put him aboard the *Gift* Frigate, Captain *Reynolds* Commander, in whom he ſayled to *Barbadoes*; and after his return entred himſelf a Midſhip-man aboard Sir *Edward Spragge*: by whom being employed as a Preſs-Maſter in the former Dutch War, amongſt many others he preſt one that was in the hands of the Bayliffs, taken by them upon Execution, and carried him clear away; for which and for being a grand Mutineer, he was afterward ſeized, and committed a Priſoner to the *Marſhalſey* for ſome moneths.

But at laſt being ſet at liberty, and having reſolutions

to

to raiſe himſelf by any ſiniſter wayes, and determining to ſurprize and run away with the firſt good Ship he could get employment in, it ſo happened, that in the year 1668. being at *Cadiz* in *Spain*, he was entertained as Gunner aboard the *Hopewell* of *Tangier*, Captain *Lambert Bartholomew Welters* Commander, a Veſſel of about 250 Tuns, and 24 Guns, bound from *Tangier* to *Virginia*, and richly laden, who ſayling from *Cadiz* the ſecond of *September*, and the next day ſpringing a Leak, thereupon by the general opinion of Officers aboard, it was thought beſt to put in at the *Grand Canaries* to ſtop it, where meeting with contrary winds, they conſtrained them to make more Southerly. Upon the Eighth of *October* following at One of the Clock in the Morning, being in 24 Degrees and about 40 Minutes Northern Latitude, and about 220 Engliſh Leagues Weſtward from *Ferre*, the ſaid *George Cuſack*, with one *Richard Parſlow*, one of the Mates or Pilots, and ſeveral others of their Confederates, having privately armed themſelves, fell upon the Watches, and by violence ſeized the ſaid Captain *Lambert*, *Thomas Power* Merchant and Supercargo of the ſaid Veſſel, *Daniel Gilſon* chief Mate, together with the Boatſwain, Carpenter, Butler, and ſeveral others, having firſt through the great Cabbin door ſhot the Cabbin-Boy through the Thigh, and the Carpenter upon the Deck through the Buttock, whom they alſo wounded in the Arm, together with the Boatſwain, all whom this *Cuſack* commanded unto the Round-houſe, placing Guards over them, where they apprehended every minute to be murdered and thrown over-board; at laſt he hawled out the ſmall Boat of tht Ship, and by violence forced into the Boat Captain *Lambert*, with the chief Mate, the wounded Carpenter, the Butler with three Seamen more, whom he expoſed to the mercy

cy of the Ocean, denying them the Long-boat, though they begged it upon their knees, without giving any reaſon for ſo inhumane an action, or having any provocation thereunto.

The ſaid *Thomas Power* being commanded out of the Round-houſe with the reſt, obſerving the ſaid *Cuſack* to be the principal Conſpirator, deſired to ſpeak a few words with him before he was put off, who replied, *God damme, what you have to ſay, ſay quickly*; whereupon the ſaid *Power* deſired him to Piſtol him there, rather than to expoſe him to the mercy of the Sea, for he had rather dye a ſudden death, than a certain lingering one; but withall told him, he conceiv'd he had a better way for the ſaving of his life, for a day or two might be of uſe to him till he had taken an accompt of the Ships Cargo, & how ſhe was ſtored with Water and Proviſion, which having done, he might Piſtol him, or throw him overboard at pleaſure. Upon which the ſaid *Cuſack* forthwith commanded the ſaid *Power* into the great Cabbin, under the command of two Muſquetiers, ſtraitly charging them upon pain of death to ſhoot him if he ſpoke to any man. The Boat being fired at by a ſmall ſhot out of the Gun-room by one *Edward Barry*, and forced away, *Cuſack* together with *Barlow*, the ſame day broke open Captain *Lambert*'s Cheſts, and there divided betwixt them all the Goods and Money in equal proportion, together with all the things of value belonging to Captain *Lambert* in the great Cabbin, declaring their reſolution of running away with the Ship and Cargo, and of taking or ſinking all Ships or Veſſels they ſhould meet with belonging to any Nation, Engliſh only excepted: promiſing to all perſons aboard that joyned with them, their proportion and ſhares of the Ship and Cargo; together with all other Ships they ſhould afterwards take

or

or ſurprize, according to the Lawes of *Pleron:* to which end he ordered to be drawn up in Writing an Obligation to himſelf as Captain, and the ſaid *Parſlow* as Lieutenant, expreſſing the Reſolutions of the Subſcribers upon their Oaths to live and die with them in this their preſent deſign, to which there ſubſcribed one *Thomas Carre* alias *Richardſon*, formerly Gunners Mate, whom he now made Maſter; one *Nathanael Eſtan* alias *Hillon*, whom he made Maſters Mate, *Moſes White* made Boatſwain; thirteen Servants (who all voluntarily entered themſelves upon the ſaid Voyage for *Virginia*) together with moſt of the Seamen, many of them not daring to refuſe. The perſons names not ſubſcribing nor conſenting being *John Samuel* the former Boatſwain, ſore wounded; *Jacob Marrelly* the Chirurgion, *Leonard Cornelly* the Carpenters Mate, *Jacob Cornelly* the chief Boy, with three other Cabbin Boys, and *Benjamin Wilbins* ſervant to the ſaid *Thomas Power*. All whom they forced along with them. The perſons unwillingly or conſtrainedly ſubſcribing the Writings were, *Thomas Wildſmith*, Serjeant *Andrew Mattes*, and one *Clark* of *Tangier* Seamen. After the ſeizure of the Ship he poſſeſſed himſelf of all Letters and Writings relating to the Voyage, as well belonging to Captain *Lambert*, as alſo thoſe in the poſſeſſion of *Thomas Power*, except three Papers onely which *Power* hath concealed and reſerved, almoſt all which he threw over board, leſt any of them ſhould diſcover his Piratical proceedings, and could not be perſwaded to ſave a great large Bible that conſtantly lay upon the great Cabbin Table, from the mercy of the Waves, which whiles ſome of his own Crew endeavoured to perſwade him to, he replyed, *You Cowards, what do you think to go to Heaven and do ſuch Actions as theſe? No, I will make you Officers in Hell under me*; and with that threw

threw the Bible out at the great Cabbin window, saying *Go thou thy way Divinity, what have we to do with thee* Upon which he presently altered his Course, and set Sail for *Guinney*, intending there to convert the Cargo into Gold; in ten days time he run into fourteen Degrees and a half of Northern Latitude, but not being able to find the *Cape de Verde Islands*, and being ignorant whether he was to Windward or Leeward of any of them, and not having above a months fresh Water, he determined to Sayle full West, in hopes either of falling in with some of the Islands, or at worst to have the advantage of a Trade Wind for *Barbadoes*, where he arrived the fourth of *November* following; during this passage, as also before, he often sollicited *Thomas Power* to close with him in his design, profering him not only his own goods, but the moyety of the Cargo besides, which *Power* refusing, wrought in *Cusack* such a jealousie of him, heightned with the discontents of his Confederates, that it was daily expected when *Power* should be murdered, and thrown over-board, being judged the only person that was in a capacity of discovering their piratical proceedings. The Boat with seven men forced to Sea, being concluded without fail lost, this merry Crew often drunk to them in Hell, though indeed they had more reason to conclude it nearer to themselves, which they were far enough from having any apprehension of, witness their daily Song, and their drunken bouts, which was.

HANG sorrow, let's cast away care,
the World is bound to find us:
Thou and I, and all must die,
And leave this World behind us.

The

The Bell ſhall ring, the Clark ſhall ſing,
The Good old Wife ſhall wind us.
The Sexton ſhall lay our Bodies in Clay
Where the Devil in Hell ſhall find us.

In this paſſage ſhe eſpied a Sayl to Windward, to whom ſhe gave chaſe ſome hours, ſuppoſing it to be a *Portuguize* from *Brazile*, whom they intended to make a prize of, but were out-ſayled by her, before their arrival at *Barbadoes*, where they determined to touch and ſell for ready money, as much of the Cargo as they could, as alſo to carry as many men as they could get. They forced *Power* to draw up ſeveral Articles of their own dictating, to prevent the diſcovery of the Veſſel, which they had likewiſe altered all they could, and now called her the *Valiant Prince*, pretending her to belong to *Dublin*, from whence ſhe was freighted to *Cadiz*, laden with looſe *Pipe-ſtaves, &c.* by *Cuſack*, *Barſhow*, and others; and that there ſhe inveſted the produce of her Goods in the preſent Cargo aboard, and was bound for *Jamaica*, and ſo back for *Dublin*; and that ſhe hath loſt her Boat at Sea in foul weather with ſeven men in it; when ſhe ſprung a Leak, that ſhe touch't there to take in freſh Water, and to ſtop her Leak only: which pretences being proclaimed at the Main-maſt, it was declared preſent Death to every man that gave out otherwiſe; with Order to ſayl forthwith.

At *Carliſle Bay* the Fourth of *November*, they ſaluted the Fort with ſeven Guns, who returned one: without touching, they keep their Courſe for *Speights Bay*, where they hoped to Treat with more privacy and ſecurity; but before they arrived there, a Sloop with the Kings Jack and Ancient out, was making after them; *Cuſacks*

Veſſel lay by for her, and upon her coming up, invited her Boat aboard, who examined *Cuſack* whence he was, and whither bound, who anſwered as formerly agreed on. The Boat left one *Thomas Fox* aboard to bring him to an Anchor in *Speights Bay*, who immediately acquainted *Cuſack* with the ſafe arrival of the Boat, & the ſeven men in her that he pretended he had loſt at Sea, and that if he touch't there, my Lord *Willoughby* would preſently ſeize him; that Captain *Lambert* had acquainted my Lord with all particulars; and that there was a Privateer ſetting out, that was ordered to purſue and retake him; that the ſaid *Fox* knew his deſign, and reſolved to live and die with him. Upon which Information *Cuſack* called for a Piſtol, and alſo *Parſlow* fired at the ſmall Boat of the Sloop, but neither going off, the Sloop ſteered away, which *Cuſack* repented he had not either ſunk, or forcibly carried away with him.

From thence he immediately reſolved for *Martinico* a French Iſland, and about eleven a Clock the ſame night he was overtaken by a ſmall Veſſel manned out by my Lord *Willoughby*; who being to Windward, and within ſhot of *Cuſack*, he fired about eleven Guns at her; upon which the Veſſel immediately tacked and returned without firing a Gun; the next Day being betwixt *Sancta Lucia* and *Martinico*, and being becalmed towards the Evening, he eſpied a Katch plying to Windward, which he made towards all he could, but night coming on, he haled out and manned his Long-Boat with twelve men, whom he doubly armed, and commanded them to Board and take her whatſoever ſhe was; the Long-Boat haling her, received this account, That ſhe belonged to *Fluſhing*, and was bound to *Sirenam*, and deſired them to keep off; upon which they durſt not attempt her: but *Cuſack* by this time coming

coming up (the Katch not altering her Courſe) hailes her himſelf, being within Muſquet ſhot, and commands her to Strike, otherwiſe he would ſink her; but receiving no anſwer, he fired about ten Guns at her, beſides ſome Small-ſhot, thinking himſelf ſure of her; but in half an hours time ſhe got the Windward and eſcaped; but what damage is uncertain.

The Eighth of *November* being *Sunday*, by break of day, with the King's *Jack* and *Ancient* out he came to an Anchor, betwixt the Town of *Martinico* and *Carbat*, giving himſelf out for a *Man of War*, bound from *London* to *Jamaica*; that he intended to touch at, but had miſſed *Barbadoes*, and wanting Water and Wood touched there to ſupply himſelf, which all the men aboard were then to give out upon pain of Death. With theſe pretences he ſent his Boat aſhore to the Fort, in which returned aboard with him one Mr. *Blake* an Engliſhman, pretending himſelfe an Interpreter, with two Engliſh-men more, and ſome French, who acquainted him, that the Governour was at *Carbat* at Church; and that it was both cuſtomary for others, and would be neceſſary for him to kiſs his hands; aſſuring him of all fair accommodation there. Upon their importunity, together with the invitation of the Captain of the Guard (by whom he ſent the ſaid Governour a large Looking-Glaſs as a Preſent) he was prevailed with to go aſhore, and preſently commanded with him *Thomas Power:* the Church being near the Sea-ſide, and their Service then ended, the Governour *Monſier la Bier* (with many followers) meets *Cuſac*, who diſcourſed with him in *French*: *Power* it ſeems conceiving there was then before him a moſt fit Opportunity, not only to diſcover the piratical proceedings of *Cuſack*, but to recover the Veſſel and Cargo, and bring the Pirates to condigne puniſhment,

acquaints the Governour with the ſum and ſubſtance of what has been here related touching the Ship in the preſence of *Cuſack*, which was interpreted to him by the Black in the preſence and hearing of two or three Engliſh-men more and many French, deſiring the Governour that he would ſecure *Cuſack*, with the Boats Crew (who all alledged their Veſſel a *Man of War*, and *Power* only a Paſſenger, whom they were to deliver at *Jamaica*, to which they were all ready to give their Oaths) *Power* profering to make good the Truth of his accuſation with his Life, and for the better ſatisfaction of the Governor, then produced the Orders and Inſtructions of his Principals, together with his Letter of Attorney, and Captain *Lambert*'s General Bill of Lading, ſigned with his own hand, (which Papers, it ſeems, *Power* had privately ſecured) deſiring they might be read; but *Monſieur la Bier* would neither ſuffer them to be read, nor ſecure *Cuſack*, nor protect *Power*, nor ſend for other Teſtimonies from aboard, though he was earneſtly entreated to do it; only ordered *Power* to draw up in writing what he had to charge *Cuſack* with, and he would give him a farther hearing: *Power* not being believed, and being forced to ſhift for himſelf, *Cuſack* with what men he could get makes haſte aboard; and not daring to ſtay to weigh his Anchor, cuts his Cable the ſame night, and ſtands off to Sea, and the next Morning early ſends his Boat aſhore doubly arm'd to Leeward of the Town, and Waters and Woods by force, or at leaſt by private connivence.

From thence he makes for *Mountſerrat*, where he and the reſt of his Confederates being under the ſenſe of their own guilt, and knowing themſelves fully diſcovered; endeavoured to piece up a kind of agreement with the Governour Colonel *Stapleton*, but not daring to truſt themſelves under his power, and being informed that my

Lord

Lord *Willoughby* was then upon his way for *England*, and intended to viſit and ſtrengthen the Leeward Iſlands in his paſſage, he withdrew himſelf to a ſmall Iſland called *Anguilla*, where the Governour Captain *Howel* (being informed of their villany, by the diſperſed intelligence of *Power*) upon his coming aſhore ſeized him and his Boats Crew, the particulars whereof you have here expoſed to your peruſal as it was taken out of *Cuſacks* own Journal, under his own hand-writing, by which you may not only diſcover the nature of the man, but from thence experience how cuſtom in ſin begets in ſome men an opinion of the lawfulneſs of their actions, though never ſo criminal, villainous or injurious.

December the *9th.* 1668. I went aſhore, ſays he, with five men to look after ſix men that runn'd from the Ship, and ſome five miles in the Country after I drunk a little *Molby* at Captain *Hews*, one *Roch* comes in and told me that two *Dutchmen* run away with the Boat; and hearing this I aroſe to go away, and ſtept ſome 40 or 50 paces from the Houſe, they told me if I went any further I was a dead man, then I did ſuppoſe I was betrayed; then came one ſuddenly and profered to lay hold on me, thinking that I had nothing but my Cane, with that I pull'd out a Pocket Piſtol and bid him ſtand off; and ſo came through two of their ambuſhes, meeting in my way one of their Lieutenants, called Lieutenant *Derrick*, whom I truſt is in amongſt the reſt of his conſorts in the wood, and ſo going along until my wearied leggs miſſing the path-way were forced into the woods, where they were ſufficiently torn, till at laſt being very dry with ſuch unſatiable thirſt, I found a puddle of rain water which contained to the value of a pint betwixt two Rocks, ſharing to every one his portion, we marched further, and being troubled

troubled with the former thirſt, we ſpied a Houſe in the wilderneſs but the place a little plainer, where I eſpied a woman big with child, fearing to fright the woman we asked for ſome water which ſhe tendred to us at our requeſt, and withall taking notice of our wearied limbs to be ſcarce able to ſuſtain our bodies treated me with a civil entertainment in her houſe, which was a Cup of cold water, being at that preſent more welcome to me than Gold, there I ſtayed for two hours to revive my thirſty ſoul which breathed for air, after this little ſpace of time comes one *John Merideth*, and one *Bedhell*, both Merchants who counted me to yield upon terms, and deliver my Sword and Piſtols to them, and the Governour ſhould do the ſame, to which I did give conſent being unable to live in thoſe ſolitary and rather venemous woods, where *Mirmings* & *Muſculers* ſting'd us as bad as *Waſps*, then honour was forced to yield to unworthineſs, for as aſſoon as the Governor (or rather a Swine driver) had ſpied my Rapier in one of thoſe Gentlemens hands he forced him to deliver my Rapier and Piſtols, and this finiſhed, till the next day following he ſummonned me again, and I delivered my ſelf up upon conditions that I ſhould have all my cloathes and moneys belonging unto me in the Ship. But what could I expect of a rebellious and unworthy *Bandida* which never did familiar himſelf with men, but with wild goats in thoſe woods, he left me with one ſute of cloaths and one ſhirt to my back, continuing among thoſe Satyrs from the eighth day to the fifteenth, to requite my former kindneſs ſent up with me two more, the Boatſwain and another, all three in Irons, down a Shallops hold, denying me only to breath in the Hatch-way, as if that I had perpetrated the greateſt murder in the world, which was a great vexation to my Spirit, which with great courage being never inferiour to any, overcame this villainous action with patience.

It

It would be too tedious to inſert here the havock that was made of the Ship and Cargo and Stores, with the hard uſage of Captain Lambert, *and the Supercargo* Power, *the deſign of this Paper being only to purſue the life and action of* Cuſack *who from hence was ſent up in Irons to* Barbado's, *where being committed to the Marſhals Cuſtody, and afterwards to the Common-Goal, he with ſeveral other* Felons *broke Priſon, and ſeizing upon an empty Boat ventured to Sea, and touching at an* Indian Iſland *or two to refreſh themſelves got down to* Tartodos *a* French Iſland, *where being arrived he met with an opportunity of ſurprizing another Ship to a greater value, the Particulars whereof you have as followeth.*

A Frigat of 250 Tuns and 28 Guns mounted, called the Saint *Joſeph*, belonging to *David Godfry* of *Lisbon* Merchant, and others his partners then reſiding at *Rockel*, being laden with *Campeach Wood*, *Varenus Tobacco*, *Coco*, and other Merchandize to the value of 125000 pieces of Eight, whereof 20000 were in ready money, and being ready to ſail in the Month of *March* 1669. whereof one *Peter Aſdel* was Captain, and *Stephen Goliard* Merchant or *Supercargo*; who conſidering the hazard the Ship and Cargo might run by the *Spaniſh Men of War* in thoſe parts, who make prize of all Ships but their own betwixt the *Tropick*, thought it convenient for the better ſecurity of the Ship to ſtrengthen her with as many men as they could conveniently get, and amongſt many others unfortunately received aboard *George Cuſack* and his Fellows, who having now been uſed and pretty well experimented in the Trade of ſurprizing, and having before-hand contrived and agreed upon their deſigned Treachery, the Firſt of *April* following being the ſame night of their departure, they

fell

fell upon the Maſter and Merchant, and the reſt of the *French* aboard being 27 in number, whom having maſtered and ſecured in the Hold, they immediately ſet Sayl for *Carthagine*, and there expoſed them to the mercy of the *Spaniards* their ſore enemies without any relief or maintenance in a moſt miſerable condition, where they remained 17 Months in cloſe Impriſonment; he and his followers in the mean time making for *New-England*, conclude they might now paſs with more ſecurity and out of fear of diſcovery, the proprietors being in no condition to purſue them or diſperſe Intelligence concerning the fact; during this paſſage we may reaſonably conclude their carriage and behaviour was not much different from that of their former, if we conſider only the new name they gave the ſecond Piratical purchaſe, calling her now by the name of the *Flying Devil*, as indeed ſhe might be ſoterm-ed, as having none but Devils aboard her; however though the wind that fills Pyrats Sayls does in no caſe juſtifie their actions, they ſhortly after arrived ſafely upon the Coaſts of *New-England*, where in a ſhort time they diſpoſed of the Cargo of their Veſſel, and afterwards burnt the Hull, as will appear more particularly by the enſuing Letter from thence.

Boſton, N.E. Decemb. 23. 1673.

Mr. GEORGE NEVIL,

SIR, Yours by Mr. Tirry *I received, and ſhould have been glad without the recommendation of our Kinſman upon that common account of Courteſie and aſſiſtance, that the courſe of Commerce and obligations of humanity is due to ſtrangers to have opportunities and means to have anſwered your*

your requeſt; but as I was at Rochel *when the Pyrat* Cuſack *came into theſe parts, ſo I cannot particularly acquaint you with his negotiations here; but ſince my return home by procurations from Mr.* Boſſereao *an Agent from* Rochel, *I have been put upon enquiry after the concernment you recommended to me, and find that the Juriſdiction under which I live,* viz. *the* Colonie, *never countenanced the importation of any of his Commodities, but upon penalty of forfeiture interdicted the ſame, however ſome of the inhabitants of this place, and perſons of conſiderable intereſt and eſtates concerned themſelves with the perſon that purchaſed the* Cargo, *and landed and diſpoſed of the ſame in the* Colonie *of* New-Plimouth, *and alſo made purchaſe of the Ship, and in exchange furniſhed the* Pyrate *with a ſmall veſſel or two to tranſport himſelf & Comrades, and upon conſideration that the Frigat was not worth ſetting to Sea or not worthy to drink any other water, the Artillery, Ammunition, Sayles and Furnitures being ſecured they burnt the bottom. I underſtand that the common people of this* Colony *manifeſted a great diſſatisfaction at the concernment of thoſe that intereſted themſelves, alſo that the authority reſented the ſame, and took ſecurity from one* Dominick Bodkin *an* Iriſh *man, the principal correſpondent with* Cuſack, *to reſpond the claims of ſuch as were concerned in the ſaid Ship, and ſhould in a year and a day proſecute the ſame; but the ſaid term being elapſed and no demand made, his Bonds became void, and he by the improving of what his profit was there, is become very conſiderable, and this year hath been here with a very rich* Cargo; *and had the order you intimate met him, it might poſſibly have prevailed for ſome competent ſatisfaction; the Magiſtrates and People hearing a general diſplacency againſt thoſe that were concerned, but him in particular, as being the only and immediate Agent; he is gone hence for* Virginia *and thence is intended for* Flanders, *with at leaſt a* 1000 Hogsheads of Tobacco *in two Ships upon his imployment; and in regard his*

ſucceſs

ſucceſs here hath been ſo good, 'tis probable he may come here again. Hereby your ſelf or friends may know how to govern their expectations, and wherein I may ſerve you or them I ſhall be ready to aſſure you I am

Your faithful friend and ſervant,

Richard Wharton.

Cuſack having thus altered the property both of Veſſel and goods, and being no doubt plentifully ſtored both with monies and rich goods, his inſatiate deſire ſtill thirſting after more, he could not forbear enlarging his own ſhare, though with the loſs of ſeveral of his own Crew, who being big with expectations of their proportions of the whole product, and being reſolved to be more than ordinarily merry aſhore, at parting he gives them a ſmall ſum of money to that purpoſe, and whilſt they were in the height of their merriment, he with the reſt of his Countrymen and principal Confederates make all the Sail they could, leaving their Fellows as empty of their hopes, as full of their liquor, a pleaſant but not ſufficient reward for ſuch villains. Hence he ſteers his courſe for *Ireland*, and though report gives an accompt of ſome ſmall depredations he was guilty of in his way thither, yet I am unwilling to trouble the Reader with matters of uncertainty, his whole life being a ſeries of continued Villainies, of which there are too many and too true inſtances.

Being therefore arrived in *Ireland*, and having diſpoſed of the product of his ill gotten purchaſes as he thought moſt convenient, and that he might follow his old trade with leſs ſuſpicion, he provides himſelf with an old *Greenland* Shallop, and with others of his Crew putting

to

to Sea, in Saint *George his Channel* they meet with a *Malligo* Ship of Twenty four Guns, fraighted by own Mr. *Fleming*, and bound for *Glaſco* in *Scotland*, whom they made towards all they could, and coming up with her pretended themſelves to be Shipwrackt men, and were ready to ſtarve for want of ſuſtenance, the Captain out of pitty received them aboard as diſtreſſed men, and having plentifully relieved them with all things neceſſary, little expecting ſo ſad a return of his kindneſs, they according to their wonted cuſtom ſeized the Veſſel, and carried her for *Galloway* in *Ireland*, where they diſpoſed of her and her Cargo, and ſent the Captain and his men in the *Greenland* Shallop to the mercy of the Seas, who by Gods providence got the *Engliſh* ſhores.

But now his many and frequent Piracies having rendred him notorious in thoſe Seas, he thought it moſt ſafe to retire himſelf for ſome time within land, and to that end having provided himſelf with Horſes, he aſſociates himſelf with a Company of Tories, and after many robberies, he could not forbear falling upon the Houſe of one *William Chanvelly* a Quaker, for which ſome Months after he was apprehended aud committed to Priſon in *Dublin*, where putting in Bail for his appearance the Term following, in the interim he made for *England*, acquainting his Bail that he was gone thither to endeavor to procure his pardon, which if he obtained he would then return in certain weeks, otherwiſe he muſt ſhift for himſelf.

After his private abode in *England* for ſome time, he went over for *Holland*, where prying to and again for ſome advantage, and pretending to have deſerted the *French* Service, and that he intended for *England*, having ſeveral aſſociates along with him he became acquainted

with one *Simon Harcourt*, who was taken on by one Mr. *Calhoon* owner of the Ship *Robert*, for Maſter of that Ship upon a Voyage to *Newcaſtle*, with whom confederating for the ſurprize of the Veſſel, they accordingly effected their deſign as particularly appears by the depoſitions following.

Edward Creſwel *of* London-derry *maketh Oath, that about the* firſt day *of* July *laſt paſt, being aboard the Ship, called the* Robert, *one Mr.* Calhoone *being owner, the ſaid Ship being bound from* Amſterdam *to* Newcaſtle, *one* Symon Harcourt *being Maſter, did take in one* Smith, *alias* Dixon, *alias* Cuſack, *with ſeveral others of the ſaid* Cuſacks *Companions, pretending themſelves to be paſſengers, and the ſaid Ship being at Sea, this* Deponent *did often obſerve the ſaid* Harcourt *and* Cuſack *and the reſt of the pretended Paſſengers whiſpering together, which gave this* Deponent *cauſe to believe, that the ſaid* Harcourt *and* Cuſack, *and the reſt of his pretended Paſſengers, did intend to ſurprize and ſeize the ſaid Ship; ſoon after one of* Cuſacks *Companions (this* Deponent *being aſleep) came to him with a Sword drawn in his hand, and did awake this* Deponent *ſtriking him over the face with the flat of his Sword, and calling him* Dog, *Swearing ſeveral Oaths, uſing the* Deponent *in a very ill manner, and ſaid the Ship was their own, and that they ſeized her by Vertue of a* French *Commiſſion, and afterward came up with three Ships, two* Swedes, *and one* Dane, *and Robb'd them, leaving them not ſo much as Victuals to maintain them for Twenty four Hours, having taken their Sails, Cables and Anchors, leaving them to the mercy of the Sea, and one Main-Sail; and having begged on their knees for their Fore-Sail, and Anchor,*

Anchor, in a paſſion they let their Water go out of their Casks which was more dear to them than their Victuals, he bidding them go, the Devil would furniſh them with Sails and Anchors; this Deponent *having humbly begged for a Sute of his own Cloaths, after all being taken from him but his Shirt and his Drawers,* Cuſack *with his Sword drawn cauſed him to leap over board, and if the* Danes *Boat had not been near, (whom they had Robb'd) this* Deponent *had been drowned; and this* Deponent *further maketh* Oath *that they took out of the ſaid* Swede *Ship, a parcel of* Dollars *to the value of* 1000. *as this* Deponent *on* Oath *believes, with much other Merchant goods; It was made out upon* Oath *by the Maſter of the ſaid* Swede *Ship, before the Councel of* Elſenore, *that he did take out of the ſaid Ship all the Victuals and Water, excepting half a Barrel of Water and a little broken Biſquet, and left them but with one Sail and one Anchor, and that the ſaid Ship was left to the mercy of the Sea, having fourteen days Sailing to* Elſenore.

Jurat. *the* 22 *day of* September, 1674.
coram me, Ma. Bramſton.

Being poſſeſſed of the Veſſel, ſoon after that he ſeized another Ship called the Saint *Anne* of 500 Tuns, bound from *Norway* to *London* with Timber and Deals, chiefly belonging to Captain *Shorter* of the *Bank-ſide*; and at the ſame time ſeized an old Fly-Boat belonging to a *Dane*, which after having plundred and taken away her Fore-ſayl, with one Anchor and a Cable, and utterly diſabled her, he put the men into her that belonged to the Saint *Anne*, and turned her adrift, whom it pleaſed God, after much hazzard and hardſhip, to ſend ſafe aſhore near *Yarmouth*; but he immediatly ſayled

led with the Saint *Anne* to *Aberdeen* in *Scotland*, where (having diſpoſed of parcel of her loading by the way) he ſold her and her remaining lading for betwixt 2 and 3 hundred pound, though ſhe was eſteemed worth about three thouſand pound: after which he came to the *Thames*, and had the confidence to come to an Anchor betwixt the Forts at *Graveſend*, where he continued two nights and a day; but not finding himſelf ſecure there, he retired to *Lee*-Road, where he lay nine days before any diſcovery was made of him; but notice being given to one Lieutenant Colonel *Kennedy*, (who was the man that took him) by the Owner of the Ship *Robert* of her ſurprize, and Lieutenant Colonel *Kennedy* receiving intimation of her being at *Lee*, obtained a Warrant for her apprehenſion from the Court of Admiralty, which was accordingly executed, as appears by the following Depoſition.

James Dalton *of Saint* Giles in the Fields, *in the County of* Middleſex, *maketh Oath, that he this Deponent on the twenty fourth of* Auguſt *laſt came to* Lee *with Lieutenant Colonel* Kennedy, *about ten of the Clock in the Evening, and the ſaid Colonel* Kennedy *then having a Warrant from the Judge of the Admiralty to ſeize a Ship called the* Robert, *this Deponent then knowing her to be a Robber or Pirate, for he ſailed in her when ſhe belonged to one Mr.* Calhoone *the right Owner, and was on board her when ſhe was ſurpriſed by Captain* Cuſack, *alias* Smith, *alias* Dixon, *who then came as a Paſſenger in her from* Amſterdam *about* June *laſt; about four Leagues from the* Fly, *the ſaid* Smith, *alias* Dixon, *alias* Cuſack, *ſeized the ſaid Ship; and a few hours after came up with three Ships, viz. two* Swedes *and one* Dane, *and robbed them of their*

their Sayls, Anchors, Merchandize, and Provision, leaving nothing but one Sayl and Anchor to each, and left them to the mercy of God and the Sea, and came into Alford *Creek, and ſold the Plunder there, this Deponent being then one of the Ships Company; all which this Deponent informed the Juſtice of in the preſence of the ſaid Lieutenant Colonel* Kennedy *when they came to him with the Warrant of Admiralty to ſeize the ſaid Ship: and further, that he was a notorious and deſperate perſon, he cared not what he did. And this Deponent two then deſired the ſaid Juſtice to be very careful of the Priſoners which he had on ſhore out of the Ship, for they would uſe all violent and deſperate means to carry off the ſaid Ship, their lives being at ſtake: and the ſaid Juſtice replyed, they were all honeſt men, the Ship ſhould not be taken away, he would ſecure it, which he ſaid in preſence of Colonel* Kennedy *and one Mr.* Dermot *and others; notwithſtanding that the ſaid Juſtice did ſay, that he had a ſuſpicion of them the next Morning after the Ship came.*

Jurat. 18. die Septemb. 1674.

Coram me, *Ma. Bramſton.*

The ſaid Ship-Robber being thus ſecured at *Lee*, and his Sayls brought aſhore, and ſecured there alſo, *Cuſack* at the ſame time being abſent upon new deſigns for more purchaſe, but hearing how things went, makes all the haſte he could to *Lee*, where he and his Comrades partly by force, and partly by connivence, repoſſeſt themſelves of Ship and Sayls, and turned the man aſhore that was in poſſeſſion of her; Colonel *Kennedy* then being with the Judge of the Admiralty for a ſpecial Warrant:

Warrant: which being obtained, he returned with one of his Majesties *Yachts*, and Mr. *Joynes* the Marshal of the Admiralty, who pursued the said Vessel, and found her at Anchor near the *Essex*-shore, waiting for more of their Comrades to come aboard. When *Cusack* saw the Kings *Yacht* and Colours, he would have engaged, but his men would not: he being on the Deck with a Pistol in each hand, swore *God dam him that he should be hanged*, which was to the great grief and loss of many a Merchant, that his Oath was not sooner kept, and to the good of others so soon, leaving his Ship plentifully victualled with fresh Meat; for he and his Crew the two Nights they were gone had stolen a number of Sheep from *Essex*, according to their wonted custom, whereof some killed, some alive were found aboard: he was constrained with the rest to submit himself a Prisoner, and from thence was brought and committed to the *Marshalsey* in *Southwark*.

It now remains, that I give you an Account of the Tryal *and* Sentence *of this famous* Pirate, *which cannot be better taken than from the Accompt then, which followeth.*

AN Exact Narrative OF THE TRYALS OF THE PYRATS: AND

All the PROCEEDINGS at the late *Goal-Delivery* of the *Admiralty*, Held in the *Old-Bayly*, on *Thurſday* and *Saturday*, the 7th and 9th of *Jan.* $167\frac{4}{5}$.

WHERE

Eight Perſons were Condemned to dye. *Viz.*

Capt. *George Cuſack*, alias *Dixon*, alias *Smith*.
Gerrard Coundon.
William Collingwood.
Gerrard Stack.
Henry Lovewell.
Symon Harcourt.
Michael Fitz-Gerald.

For taking, and Robbing Two Ships, *viz.* the *Robert*, near the *Fly*: And the *Anne* on the *Dogger-Sands*; With ſeveral others.

And many other Circumſtances there very Remarkable: The like Court *having not been held for many years before.*

Printed in the Year, 1675.

AN EXACT NARRATIVE OF THE Tryals of the Pyrats; AND All the PROCEEDINGS at the late *Goal-Delivery* of the *Admiralty*; Held in the *Old-Baily*, on *Thurſday*, and *Saturday*, the 7th and 9th of *January*, 167⅘.

CAptain *George Cuſack*, ſometimes called *Dixon*, and at other times *Smith*, with ſeveral of his Confederates, having been detained above Six Months Priſoners in the *Marſhalſes*, in order to their Tryals: Which at laſt was appointed to be on *Thurſday* the 7th of *January* Inſtant, at *Juſtice-Hall* in the *Old-Baily*, as a Place moſt convenient for that purpoſe. But this

Captain, being it ſeems Conſcious to his own Merits, and apprehenſive of the Danger; on *Munday* before in the Night-time, broke Priſon; Getting firſt down a Chimney into a lower Chamber, and then by a Rope into a Garden, and ſo Cleverly made his Eſcape: And could not be heard of till this very *Thurſday*, juſt as the Court was going to ſit.

At which time, Diligent Enquiry having been made all wayes, and Rewards promiſed for his Diſcovery; News came, That there was notice of him at a certain Houſe towards the Upper end of *Holbourn*. Where immediately after he was taken in Bed with a Woman; who was brought along with him, forthwith to the *Old-Baily*, and was by ſome reported to be his Siſter. The other Priſoners were brought over the Water with a ſtrong Guard.

The Court was held by a Special Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, and Goal-Delivery, directed to Honourable Perſons of the Court of *Admiralty*; and ſeveral of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Courts at *Weſtminſter*, &c. A Silver Oar was born before the *Judge* of the *Admiralty*; And Three Anchors put upon a Cloth above the Kings-Arms, over the Bench.

The Judge after the *Commiſſion* read, gave his Charge to the Grand-Inqueſt, in an Excellent Oration, acquainting them with his Majeſtie's Right of Soveraignty over the *Britiſh* Seas; even to the very Shoars of his Neighbours. That they have alwayes been accounted, The Royal Chambers of our Engliſh Monarchs: Whoſe Juriſdiction extends to puniſh all Outrages, Violences and Offences whatſoever, committed thereupon, by any perſons, (whether his Subjects, or Strangers.) upon Ships, Perſons, or Goods, of our own Nation; or others in Amity with us. Then

he

he ſhewed the heynouſneſs of the Crime of *Pyracy*; That it was againſt the Law of Nations; Deſtructive to *Commerce*: and therefore particularly branded by our *Engliſh Laws*, by being excepted out of the benefit of Clergy; allowed in other caſes. Dividing the Offences he had to give them in Charge, as the ſubjects of their Enquiry at this time, into things againſt the *Statute Law*; and things contrary to the *Laws*, *Cuſtoms* and *Uſages* of the *Admiralty*. On each of which, he particularly enlarged. And amongſt other things, declared the Ceremony of the *Flagg*, to be our King's Indubitable Right; whereby all Ships whatſoever, in thoſe Seas, are bound to ſtrike to thoſe of his Majeſtie's, where ever they meet them: And that all that refuſe ſo to do, are ſeverely puniſhable by the *Laws* of the *Admiralty*, &c.

Immediately after this, Six Priſoners were brought to the Barr, *viz. George Cuſack*, *William Coundon*, *Gerrard Stack*, *Symon Harcourt*, *Henry Lovewell*, and *William Collingwood*; Who were Indicted, For that on the Third day of *July* laſt paſt, they Pyratically, and Feloniouſly did ſet upon a Ship called the *Robert*, near a place called the *Fly*, on the Coaſts of *Holland*. And by another Indictment, *That they had Feloniouſly ſtoll'n ſeveral Goods out of another Ship, whoſe name to the Jurours was unknown.* To both theſe *Indictments* they pleaded *Not Guilty*. But upon the *Evidence*, the Caſe appeared to be in effect thus: *Cuſack*, and others of his Company, having a Deſign to Rob this Ship, and underſtanding the Maſter wanted Sea-men, ſet Two of their Confederates to offer their Service to him. Where they were entertained; and at laſt betrayed the Ship into his hands: which he carried it away.

The Captain at the firſt took ſome exceptions to the Jury;

Jury; not for any prejudice againſt any particular men of them; but becauſe they were Citizens; who did not (he ſaid) underſtand Maritime-Affairs. And that it was neceſſary, Sea-Captains, and Maſters of Ships ſhould have been Impannell'd. Upon which occaſion he cryed out, *We will be Tryed (my Lord) by men of our own Trade!* Which being underſtood in another ſence, made not only the Audience, but his fellow Priſoners to laugh heartily. But being over-ruled in this, he next inſiſted on a *Commiſſion* from the *French* King. Which was read; but was found to be directed to another perſon: But he alledged, it was his Kinſman, who had the Grant of a *Commiſſion* at the ſame time; and that by miſtake the *Commiſſions* were changed: and ſo his Kinſman's Commiſſion ſent to him from *Callice* to *London*; where he paid a Sum of Money for it to the *French* Reſident: And that he not being able to read *French*, could not perceive the Errour, but acted by it; not doubting but that it had been his own. And that this Ship the *Robert*, was never made any free Ship of *England*; but the Owners were *Dutch*, and lived in *Rotterdam*: and that he hoped the Court would allow of his *Commiſſion*.

The Court told him, The *Commiſſion* was nothing worth. For if it had been directed to him, (as it was not) there was yet no power given him thereby to ſeize Ships of *England*, as this proved to be. Beſides, they ask't, *How he durſt take a Commiſſion from any Forreign Prince, directly contrary to the late Treaty, and his Majeſtie's Proclamation?* To which he Replyed, *That his Coumiſſion bore date before that Proclamation.* And beſides inſiſted, *That whereas by the Indictment he was charged with an Offence committed* Super altum Mare, *upon the Sea; This Ship was taken in one of the* Dutch Ports,

Ports, *and ſo not appertaining to the Juriſdiction of the* Engliſh *Admiralty*. But this the Witneſſes refuted, proving ſhe was taken Three Leagues out at Sea, from the *Fly*.

This Mr. *Cuſack* appeared to be a Perſon of a Clear Courage, and good underſtanding: he pleaded very well for his life; but the matter was too foul to be waſht off with good words.

The Court having withdrawn about an hour, returned to give Judgment. Which was performed in moſt Grave and Solid Speeches; ſetting forth the nature, and aggravations of their Crimes; and adviſing them to prepare for death, &c. Captain *Cuſack* preſented a Petition; wherein he begg'd his life very pathetically: Recounting his former Services; and offering himſelf to the Service of his Majeſtie's Gallies at *Tangier*, till by his future good Demeanour and Services, he might waſh off the ſtains of his late ill Actions, &c. Moſt of the others preſented Petitions alſo, deſiring Mercy and Favour of the Court: who proceeded to give Judgment. Which againſt Captain *Cuſack*, and the Seven others, before mentioned, to be Convicted for Pyracy and Robbery, was, *That they ſhould be hang'd till they were dead.*

FINIS.